

in a bipartisan fashion to save lives and serve America. I look forward to continuing to work together to make the .08 standard a reality.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Message to the Congress Reporting on Appropriations for B-2 Bombers

March 31, 1998

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 1998, Public Law 105-56 (1997), and section 131 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998, Public Law 105-85 (1997), I certify to the Congress that no additional B-2 bombers should be procured during this fiscal year.

After considering the recommendations of the Panel to Review Long-Range Air Power and the advice of the Secretary of Defense, I have decided that the \$331 million authorized and appropriated for B-2 bombers in Fiscal Year 1998 will be applied as follows: \$174 million will be applied toward completing the planned Fiscal Year 1998 baseline modification and repair program and \$157 million will be applied toward further upgrades to improve the deployability, survivability, and maintainability of the current B-2 fleet. Using the funds in this manner will ensure successful completion of the baseline modification and repair program and further enhance the operational combat readiness of the B-2 fleet.

The Panel to Review Long-Range Air Power also provided several far-reaching recommendations for fully exploiting the potential of the current B-1, B-2, and B-52 bomber force, and for upgrading and sustaining the bomber force for the longer term. These longer term recommendations warrant careful review as the Department of Defense

prepares its Fiscal Year 2000-2006 Future Years Defense Program.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
March 31, 1998.

Videotaped Remarks for the Memorial Service in Jonesboro, Arkansas

March 29, 1998

Hillary and I wish we could be with you all as you remember and give thanks for the lives of Natalie Brooks, Paige Ann Herring, Stephanie Johnson, Brittany Varner, and Shannon Wright.

Our prayers have been with their families and with all of you over these last few days. Every one of them made Jonesboro a better place. Every one of them had much to live for and much still to give. For now, you must all be thankful for the cherished memories you have.

Like all of you, I do not understand what dark force could have driven young people to do this terrible thing. As President, I have seen many children killed by political fanatics, but in some ways, this is even harder to grasp. For now, all we can do is to pray for peace and healing for their families and for Jonesboro. And, indeed, we should pray for the families of the two young suspects, for their suffering, too, must be grievous.

Saint Paul reminds us that we all see things in this life through a dark glass, that we only partly understand what is happening to us. But one day, face to face with God, we will see all things, even as He sees us.

For four fine young girls and an outstanding teacher, that day has come. May God bless them, their families, and all of you.

NOTE: These remarks were videotaped in the afternoon on March 28 in Johannesburg, South Africa. They were released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 31 for the memorial service that evening.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Abdou Diouf of Senegal in Dakar

April 1, 1998

African Crisis Response Force

Q. Mr. President, are you—how important do you feel an African force is—[*inaudible*]?

The President. Well, I think it's potentially very important because an African Crisis Response Force can enable the Africans to stop problems before they get out of hand. And of course, the President and I are going to review one of the training exercises here in Senegal. We've had one in Uganda. We will have one in Ghana. President Mandela said that he would be interested in participating, so I'm encouraged by that. I think there's an enormous sense among African leaders that if they have infrastructure and the training to do it, they could solve a lot of their own problems. I'm very excited about it.

Q. Will you be talking to—[*inaudible*]—about reports of—[*inaudible*]—party politics here? There is criticism that perhaps the ruling party has too much power and is too controlling.

The President. Well, we'll discuss the whole range of things. But the main thing I want to do today is to thank the President for the support that he's given to peacekeeping around the world and to—[*inaudible*]—Senegal's long experience with elected Presidencies and to work on this African Crisis Response Initiative.

NOTE: The exchange began at approximately 11 a.m. at the Presidential Palace. In his remarks, the President referred to President Nelson Mandela of South Africa. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks to Senegalese Troops Trained for the African Crisis Response Initiative in Thies, Senegal
April 1, 1998

President Diouf, distinguished leaders of Senegal and the United States, members of the Senegalese and American Armed Forces, ladies and gentlemen. We have just seen a training exercise involving dedicated soldiers

from our two nations, part of the African Crisis Response Initiative.

I'd like to thank the Senegalese soldiers and the United States Armed Forces. I'd like to especially thank the distinguished officers who briefed us—Lieutenant Colonel Diallo and Major Erckenbrack. And I'd also like to express my appreciation to the other Senegalese soldiers and gendarmes who were standing there who have served with multinational peacekeeping forces in Haiti and Bosnia, Africa and the Middle East.

Senegal is respected around the world for its tradition of peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts. You are a leader among the more than 15 African countries that regularly contribute troops to United Nations peacekeeping missions. I thank Senegalese troops for their commitment to peace, and I thank our American troops for your work here.

Africa and America have a great stake in the success of the soldiers like those President Diouf and I have seen here today. Where bullets and bombs prevent children from going to school and parents from going to work, amid chaos and ruin, these soldiers and other like them can bring security, hope, and a future.

Terrible violence continues to plague our world, and Africa has seen some of the worst. In some cases, children, often against their will, have stood on the frontlines of armies as cannon fodder for the ambitions of others. A few days ago, I met in Rwanda with some of the survivors of the 1994 genocide there. As I said to them, let me say again, we must find better ways to prevent such horrors from occurring.

While peace has started to take hold in many nations that once knew only violence, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Angola, Liberia, and elsewhere, tensions linger in some of these nations, and violence continues in others, like Burundi, Somalia, and Sudan. Buried landmines prevent children from walking in safety in too many African countries. Millions of refugees still remain driven from their homes. In the debris of war, poverty and disease thrive.

The international community needs new tools to keep the peace in volatile areas and cope with humanitarian crises. The African Crisis Response Initiative program, which